THE SANDMAN UNIVERSE
DEAD BOY Detectives
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THE DARK KNIGHT. HELL'S ELITE SOLDIER.
WITNESS THEIR PAST AND PRESENT COLLIDE!

BATMAN/SPAWN

THE DELUXE EDITION

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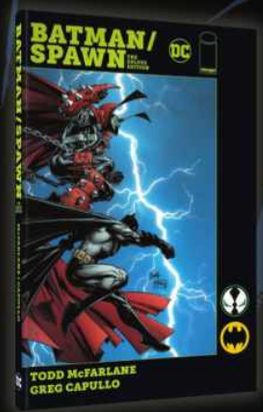
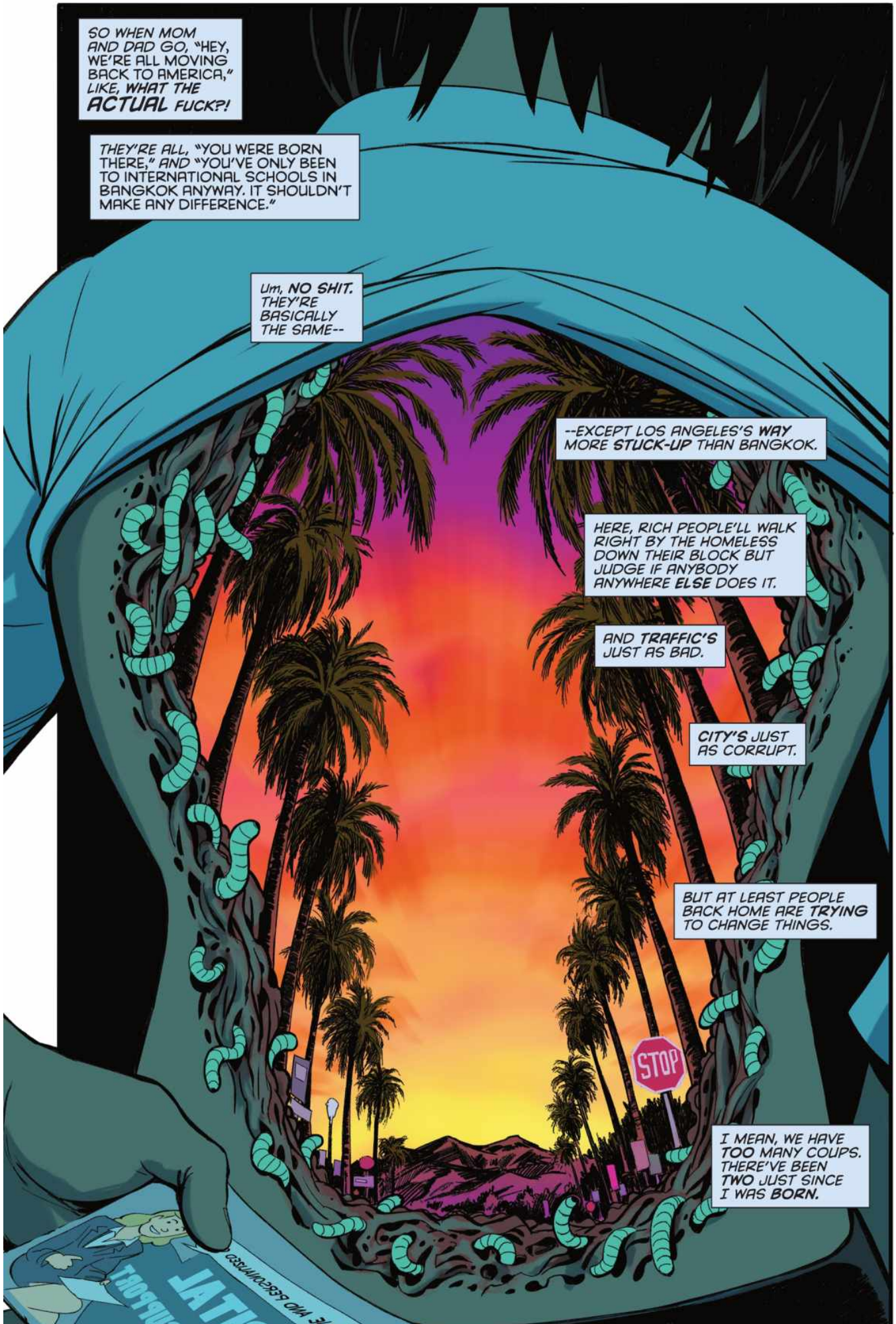
- Behind-the-scenes art gallery!



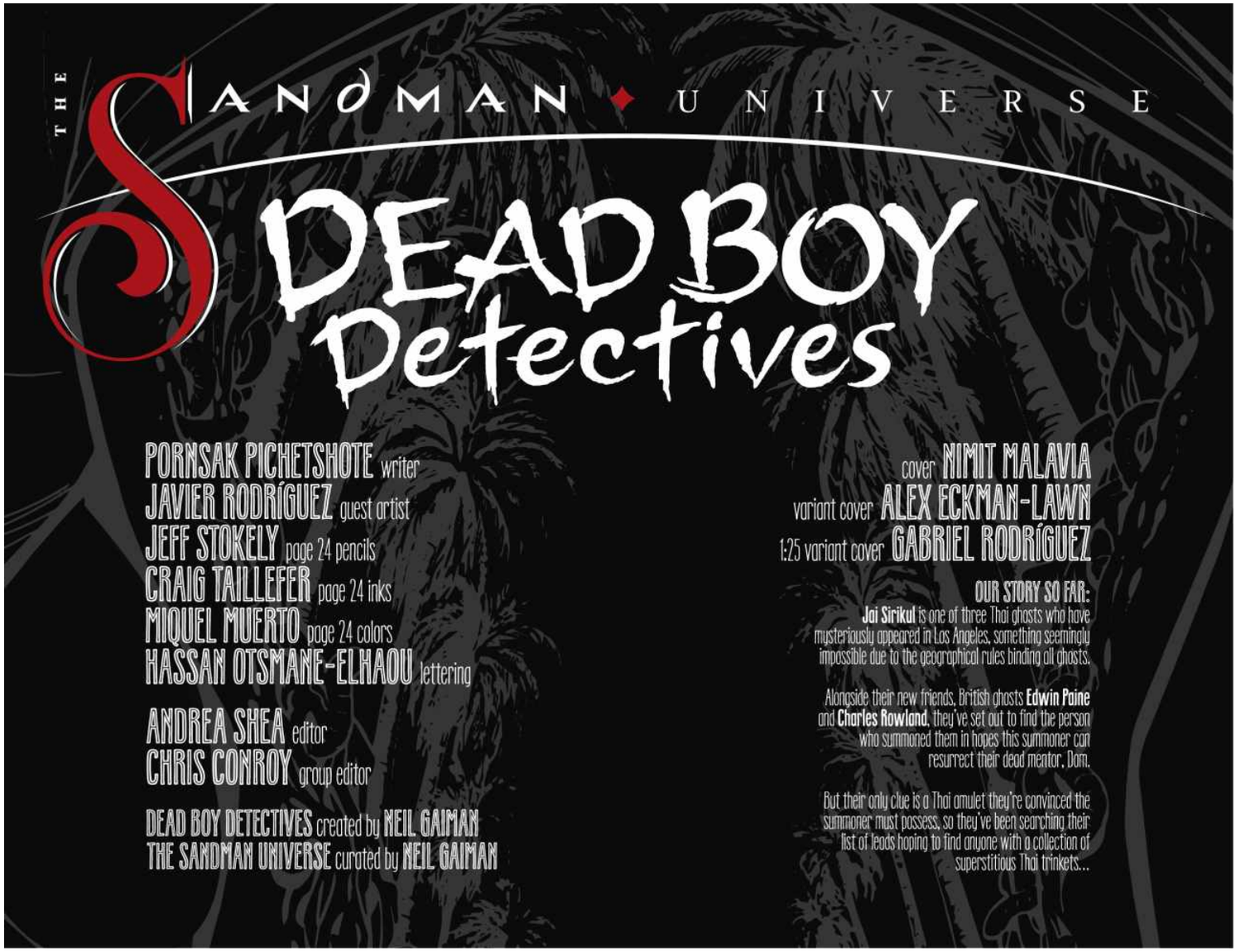
WRITTEN BY
TODD McFARLANE
FRANK MILLER
DOUG MOENCH
CHUCK DIXON
ALAN GRANT

ART BY
GREG CAPULLO
TODD McFARLANE
KLAUS JANSON

OKAY, SO... FARANGS-- WESTERNERS--RIGHT? THEY FOR REAL LOOK DOWN ON THAILAND. IT'S KINDA CRAZY.
THEY THINK IT'S ALL LIVING IN JUNGLES WITH THE ELEPHANTS AND SHIT.
OR LADYBOYS AND PROSTITUTES AND SKETCHINESS THEY'RE A HUNDRED PERCENT PROJECTING.
BECAUSE THAILAND NOW? I MEAN, OUR HOSPITALS ARE BETTER THAN AMERICA'S. AND CHEAPER.
YOU KNOW HOW MANY FARANGS GET SURGERIES THERE?
AND P.S.-- TWO OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST MALLS? ALSO IN BANGKOK.
MEANWHILE, AMERICAN MALLS ARE... KIND OF CRINGE.
CUZ, SEE, IN THAILAND, PEOPLE BELIEVE THINGS CAN CHANGE.


SO WHEN MOM AND DAD GO, "HEY, WE'RE ALL MOVING BACK TO AMERICA," LIKE, WHAT THE ACTUAL FUCK?!
THEY'RE ALL, "YOU WERE BORN THERE," AND "YOU'VE ONLY BEEN TO INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS IN BANGKOK ANYWAY. IT SHOULDN'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE."
Um, NO SHIT. THEY'RE BASICALLY THE SAME--
--EXCEPT LOS ANGELES'S WAY MORE STUCK-UP THAN BANGKOK.
HERE, RICH PEOPLE'LL WALK RIGHT BY THE HOMELESS DOWN THEIR BLOCK BUT JUDGE IF ANYBODY ANYWHERE ELSE DOES IT.
AND TRAFFIC'S JUST AS BAD.
CITY'S JUST AS CORRUPT.
BUT AT LEAST PEOPLE BACK HOME ARE TRYING TO CHANGE THINGS.
STOP
I MEAN, WE HAVE TOO MANY COUPS. THERE'VE BEEN TWO JUST SINCE I WAS BORN.

CUZ WHAT ELSE DO YOU DO WHEN YOU CARE?
FLAP FLAP
HOSPITAL
HEALTH CARE SUPPORT
24/7
IN AMERICA... I MEAN, THEY TEACH FUCKING DRILLS ON WHAT TO DO WHEN SHOOTING SPREES START. AND WHAT DO THE ADULTS DO?
LISTEN? CHANGE ANYTHING? OR JUST TALK TALK TALK ABOUT HOW "EVERYTHING'S SO COMPLICATED"?
SURE--I KNOW PEOPLE SAY I'M INTENSE, BUT COME ON--
--PEOPLE HERE CAN'T EVEN TRY?
WHO WANTS TO BE ANYWHERE THAT


THE SANDMAN UNIVERSE
DEAD BOY Detectives
PORNSAK PICHETSHOTE writer
JAVIER RODRÍGUEZ guest artist
JEFF STOKELY page 24 pencils
CRAIG TAILLEFER page 24 inks
MIQUEL MUERTO page 24 colors
HASSAN OTSMANE-ELHAOU lettering
ANDREA SHEA editor
CHRIS CONROY group editor
DEAD BOY DETECTIVES created by NEIL GAIMAN
THE SANDMAN UNIVERSE curated by NEIL GAIMAN
cover NIMIT MALAVIA
variant cover ALEX ECKMAN-LAWN
1:25 variant cover GABRIEL RODRÍGUEZ
OUR STORY SO FAR:
Jai Sirikul is one of three Thai ghosts who have mysteriously appeared in Los Angeles, something seemingly impossible due to the geographical rules binding all ghosts.
Alongside their new friends, British ghosts Edwin Paine and Charles Rowland, they've set out to find the person who summoned them in hopes this summoner can resurrect their dead mentor, Dom.
But their only clue is a Thai amulet they're convinced the summoner must possess, so they've been searching their list of leads hoping to find anyone with a collection of superstitious Thai trinkets...

OKAY, RECAP... A COUPLE HOURS AGO, SOME GHOSTS (not us!) ALMOST KILLED THIS DIRECTOR. WE THOUGHT HE SUMMONED US.
ESPECIALLY WHEN HE MENTIONED SOMEBODY NAMED SONNY HAD JUST DIED.
Not dead (really!) director
CUZ WE'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR SOMEONE CONNECTED TO TANYA'S FAMILY WHO USED A SPECIAL AMULET TO SUMMON US--
BUT IF DIRECTOR GUY CHECKS ALL THOSE BOXES AND HAD SOMEBODY CLOSE TO HIM JUST DIE?
Family waiting to hear
SILENCE
I MEAN, DID WE GET RESURRECTED WITH DEAD SONNY?
WHO THE HELL WAS DEAD SONNY?
EDWIN'D TELL US WHEN WE COULD ASK THE DIRECTOR'S SON--PIM.
I GUESS EDWIN CAN ASTRAL PROJECT, AND WHEN HE DOES, EVEN KIDS CAN'T SEE HIM.
WHICH IS KINDA A LOT, SINCE BARELY ANYBODY CAN SEE HIM ANYWAY, 'CUZ HE'S A GHOST?

FARANGS. THEY'RE SO EXTRA.
MELVIN, QUIT IT...
Very astrally projected
...YOU'RE GOING TO DISTRACT HIM.
GEEZ, TANYA... DON'T HAVE A COW.
YOU SEE THE FAMILY FROM HERE?
Uh-uh...
HEY--STOP PICKING ON HIM!
WHAT THE HELL?!
-sigh-
SO, um, JAI... I SAW YOU COMING BACK FROM THE BATH-ROOM--
OH, I DIDN'T HAVE TO PEE OR NOTHING. MY BACK THING JUST GETS ITCHY IF I DON'T AIR IT OUT.
Oh. Right...
I SHOULD HAVE GUESSED.
WHEN WE GOT BACK TO THE TEMPLE, CHARLES HAD FINALLY WOKEN UP... LIKE THIS.
FREAKED

IT STRESSED EDWIN OUT TOO, BUT... I DON'T KNOW, CHARLES WAS ACTING NORMAL.
BESIDES, WE ALL AGREED. NO MORE SPLITTING UP. THINGS WERE TOO CRAZY.
I'M TELLING YOU...
...WE SHOULD BE BY THE BATH-ROOMS!
THEY'VE BEEN HERE SO LONG, ANY SECOND NOW THAT KID'LL BURST AND HAVE A BROWN BABY BOY!
Ew.
OH MY GOD-- EVERYTHING'S SUCH A BIG WHOOP TO--
NOW!
AAAH!
Pim...
...HE'S-- HE'S GOING TO THE BATH-ROOM!
HAH!

SO WE HAULED ASS.

But...
UHHHHH!

Whoa
Whoa
Whoa
Whoa

IT'S OKAY--
WAIT! DON'T TOUCH--

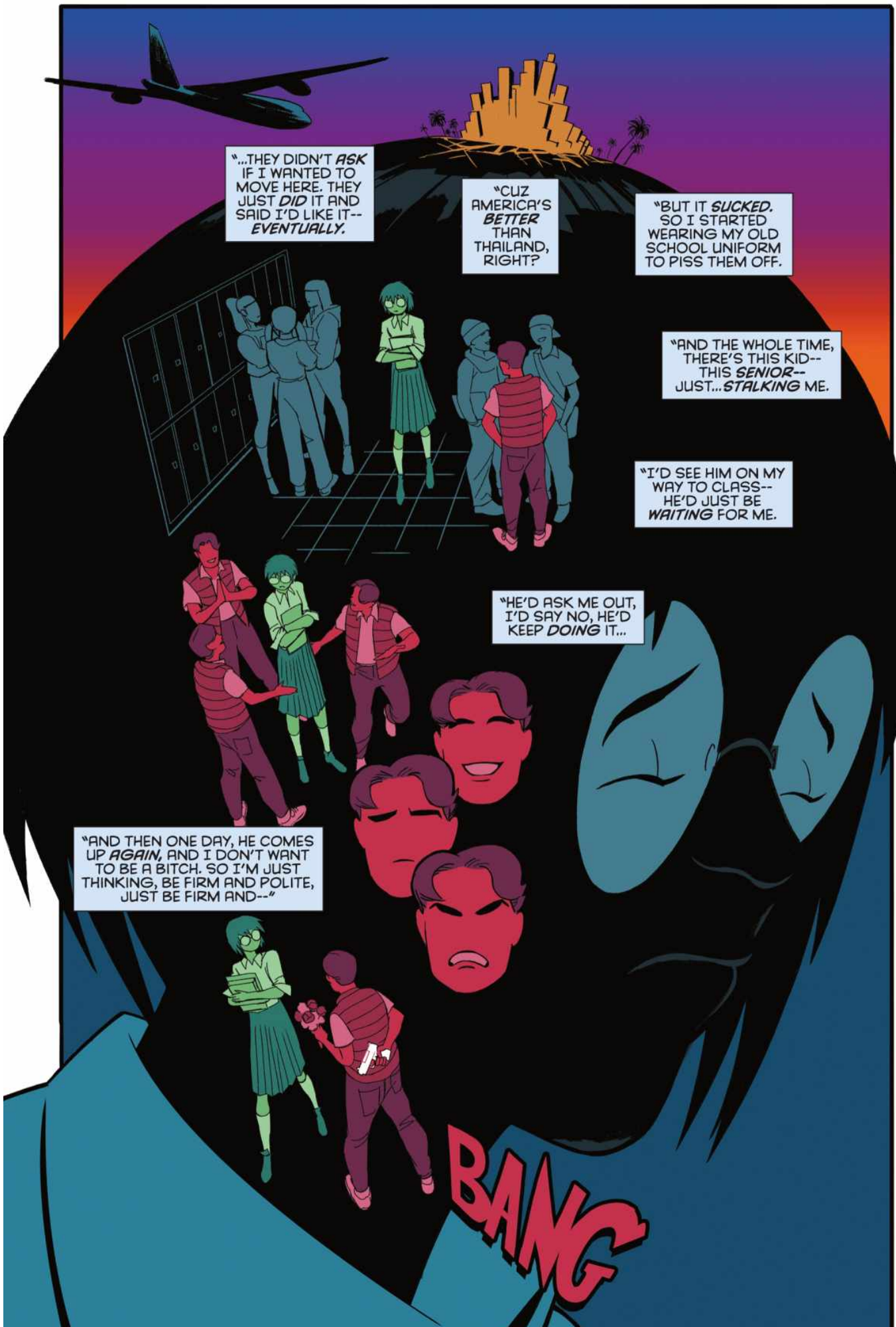
I FEEL SHITTY FOR CHARLES. HE TOTALLY LIKED TANYA. IT MUST **SUCK** THINKING SHE'S SCARED OF HIM.
AND I MEAN, MAYBE AT **FIRST** SHE WAS, BUT--
It's okay.
...

THAT KID JUST BLAMES HERSELF FOR **EVERYTHING.** AND IT DOESN'T HELP SHE THINKS CHARLES'S LIKE **THIS** CUZ SHE AND **EDWIN** LIKE EACH OTHER.
TANYA'S A NAK MOTHER--

--ANYONE IN LOVE WITH HER'S CURSED. SO'S EVERYONE AROUND HER. IT'S A LOT.
WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?
MELVINNNN...
...It's the men's room.
FINE. STEP ASIDE AND LET A MAN--
BRO-- YOU TRIED TO EAT THAT KID.
DID NOT!
Definitely did
I CAN GO!
Um...
THAT'S ALL RIGHT. I'LL GO INSIDE!
OKAY, BUT... DON'T FREAK HIM OUT, OKAY? SERIOUSLY, IF HE'S SCARED, HE'S NOT SAYING--
AAAAAHHHH!!!
Mother-fucker.
PLEASE DON'T HURT ME--

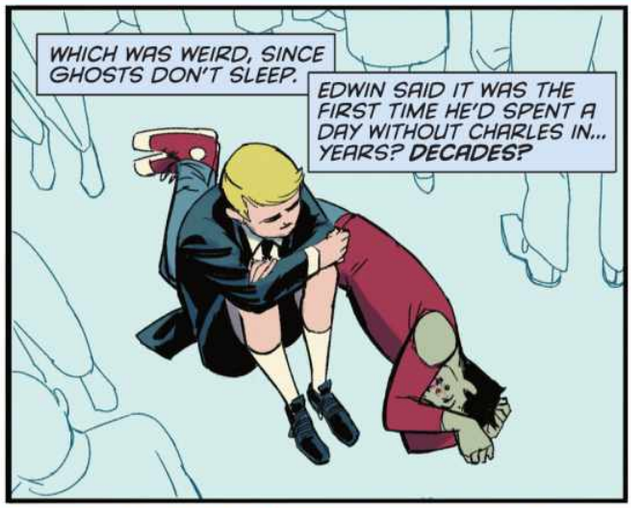
A DOG?!
A DOG?!
Soooo... SONNY WAS A DOG...
AND I GUESS SOMEONE COULD'VE SUMMONED US DURING A DOG-SURRECTION...
BUT PIM SAID HIS DAD THOUGHT THAI SUPERSTITIONS WERE DUMB. HE EVEN HATED HIS OWN MOVIES ABOUT THEM.
A FUCKING DOG!
AND WHEN WE WENT BACK AND CHECKED THEIR HOUSE, THERE WEREN'T ANY SUPERSTITIOUS THAI KNICK-KNACKS THERE.
SO IF WE NEEDED CLUES...
GUYS... I THINK WE GOTTA GO BACK TO THAT MANSION.
(WHERE THE BOYS FOUND THE PHOTO OF DIRECTOR GUY IN THE FIRST PLACE. WHERE...)
THE PLACE CHARLES, you know, GOT...
YEAH.
JAI'S RIGHT. IT'S THE ONLY PLACE ALL OF YOU HAVEN'T SEARCHED.
YOU MIGHT SEE SOMETHING WE MISSED.
...WE MUST GO.
Um, YES. OR-- Or...

...OR YOU COULDN'T.
EDWIN, YOU WERE RIGHT.
DOM MADE YOU PROMISE TO KEEP US AWAY FROM ALL THIS, BECAUSE HE KNEW IT WAS DANGEROUS. AND HE'S AN ADULT.
BUT IF WE DON'T GET YOU HELP--
HELPING DOM WAS HOW I... GOT LIKE THIS. I SHOULD HAVE LISTENED TO YOU.
But you're-- YOU'RE NOT. YOU'RE STILL NOT--
UHHH!
CHARLES!
AND THAT'S REASON NUMBER TWO WE HAD TO FIND OUR SUMMONER FAST.
We--we're just kids.
WHAT?
WE'RE JUST KIDS. EVEN IF WE FOUND WHOEVER SUMMONED US, WHAT COULD WE MAKE HIM DO?
WE CAN STOP HIM!
CAN WE? MELVIN...
...we're kids.
...
YOU KNOW, MY MOM AND DAD...


"...THEY DIDN'T ASK IF I WANTED TO MOVE HERE. THEY JUST DID IT AND SAID I'D LIKE IT-- EVENTUALLY.
"CUZ AMERICA'S BETTER THAN THAILAND, RIGHT?
"BUT IT SUCKED. SO I STARTED WEARING MY OLD SCHOOL UNIFORM TO PISS THEM OFF.
"AND THE WHOLE TIME, THERE'S THIS KID-- THIS SENIOR-- JUST... STALKING ME.
"I'D SEE HIM ON MY WAY TO CLASS-- HE'D JUST BE WAITING FOR ME.
"HE'D ASK ME OUT, I'D SAY NO, HE'D KEEP DOING IT...
"AND THEN ONE DAY, HE COMES UP AGAIN, AND I DON'T WANT TO BE A BITCH. SO I'M JUST THINKING, BE FIRM AND POLITE, JUST BE FIRM AND--"
BANG

HE'D NEVER HAVE GOTTEN THAT GUN IN BANGKOK.
BUT HERE, EVERY-ONE JUST GIVES UP. ADULTS... THEY GIVE UP.
I TOLD MY PARENTS HE WAS SKETCHY.
I TOLD MY TEACHERS.
EVERY-BODY SAID I WAS BEING DRAMATIC.
BECAUSE... THEY THINK THEY KNOW BETTER THAN US.
BUT THEY DON'T.
THEY JUST TELL US THEY DO, BECAUSE THEY DON'T WANT TO ADMIT THEY'VE STOPPED TRYING.
I JUST WANT TO GO HOME. WHERE PEOPLE CARE.
AND IF MY PARENTS DON'T? FINE. I DON'T NEED THEM.
BUT THEM AND DOM AREN'T AUTOMATICALLY RIGHT, AND WE'RE NOT AUTOMATICALLY WRONG.
BECAUSE NOT BEING AN ADULT MEANS WE DON'T HAVE TO AUTOMATICALLY NOT TRY.
BECAUSE OUR FRIEND'S SICK, AND I DON'T WANT TO STOP CARING.
DO YOU?

AFTER THAT... WE ALL AGREED TO HEAD TO THE MANSION THE NEXT NIGHT. AND DURING THE DAY, WHILE US THAI GHOSTS WERE ALL VANISHED...
...CHARLES SLEPT.


WHICH WAS WEIRD, SINCE GHOSTS DON'T SLEEP.
EDWIN SAID IT WAS THE FIRST TIME HE'D SPENT A DAY WITHOUT CHARLES IN... YEARS? **DECADES?**

I WONDER HOW IT FELT.

CHARLES WOKE UP AT THE SAME TIME WE REAPPEARED, AND THE BOYS TOOK US THROUGH THOSE FUCKING GHOST ROADS TO GET US AROUND QUICKER.
KILL ME
SLICE HIS
HELP
...EYES CLOSED AND FOLLOW ME...
DON'T TELL

AND THEN WE WERE BACK...
...TO WHERE THE BOYS FOUND THE **MONSTERS.**

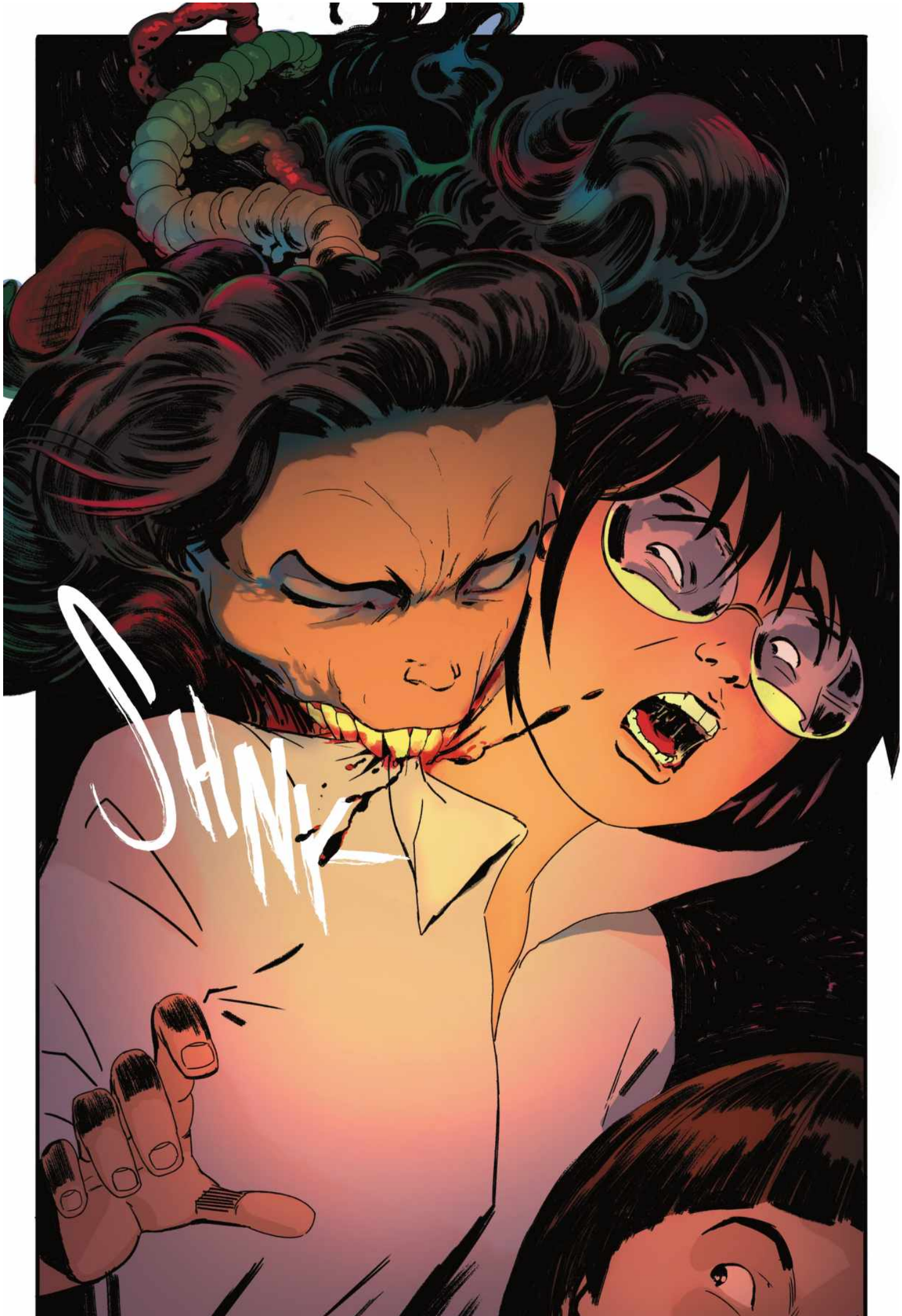
Whoa...
I... THINK THE GHOST MONSTERS...
THEY... THEY DID THIS?!

BUT WE HAD TO KEEP LOOKING. WE HAD TO.
Totally not scared
Really!
BUT THE ROOM WHERE THE BOYS FOUND DIRECTOR GUY'S PICTURE WAS TRASHED TOO. AND THERE WEREN'T ANY THAI KNICKKNACKS ANYWHERE.
BUT THERE WERE TONS OF OTHER PLACES TO LOOK. SO WE KEPT MOVING.
Nnnnn!
CHARLES--!
IT'S-- I'M OKAY... Really...

I'M FINE...
I'M REALLY HAPPY, YOU KNOW. ABOUT YOU AND TANYA.
WHAT?! WHY WOULD--?
I JUST MEAN... SHE'S QUITE KEEN ON YOU.
CHARLES...NO! YOU--YOU LIKED HER FIRST--
THAT NEVER MATTERS. BESIDES-- I DON'T MIND! I'M GLAD YOU FOUND SOMEONE.
BECAUSE... WHEN I WAS ALIVE-- I WAS SO SCARED OF... WELL, EVERYTHING.
THEN I LEARNED... BEING DEAD ISN'T A DEATH SENTENCE, IS IT?
AS LONG AS YOU'RE NOT ALONE.
AND I'M HAPPY THAT-- NO MATTER WHAT-- YOU WON'T BE.
...Charles...

EDWIN...? CHARLES?
TANYA!
IS, um, IS EVERYTHING OKAY?
Uh...WE WERE JUST CATCHING UP...
OH! THAT'S--
TRIP
Whoooaaa...
TANYA!
I'm okay, I'm okay... I GUESS I JUST TRIPPED ON THIS...
...dress?
OH YES. THERE WERE QUITE A FEW BLACK OUTFITS LYING AROUND THE LAST TIME WE WERE HERE.
THAT'S WHY I CHECKED THEM SO THOROUGHLY. YOU NEVER KNOW WHERE A CLUE MIGHT POP UP. SHERLOCK HOLMES SAYS QUITE CLEARLY--
GUYS!
OH MY GOD OH MY GOD I ACTUALLY KNOW THIS-- IN THAILAND, SOME PEOPLE WEAR BLACK FOR A MONTH AFTER SOMEONE DIES!
THIS...
"...THIS COULD BE A CLUE. JAI NEEDS TO SEE THIS!"
HEY!

WHAT...?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN HERE--?!
Oh!
Um, SORRY! THE FRONT DOOR WAS JUST...
...open?
HEY, WAIT A MINUTE--
Yooooo...
WE'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR THAT--!
NO--!
CLACK


CHNK

SQUOOSH!
MELVIN! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? WE HEARD YOU SHOUT--
Uh-oh.
AND THEN...
...SHIT GOT UNREAL.
THIS GUY...
...IT'S LIKE HE WAS DOING ALL THIS, CONTROLLING THAT THING...
WHICH MEANS-- DID WE DO IT?!
DID WE FIND THE SUMMONER?!?!

BUT THE BOYS...
Um...
...ACTUALLY...
...I-I THINK...
POC
...I THINK WE'RE OKAY...

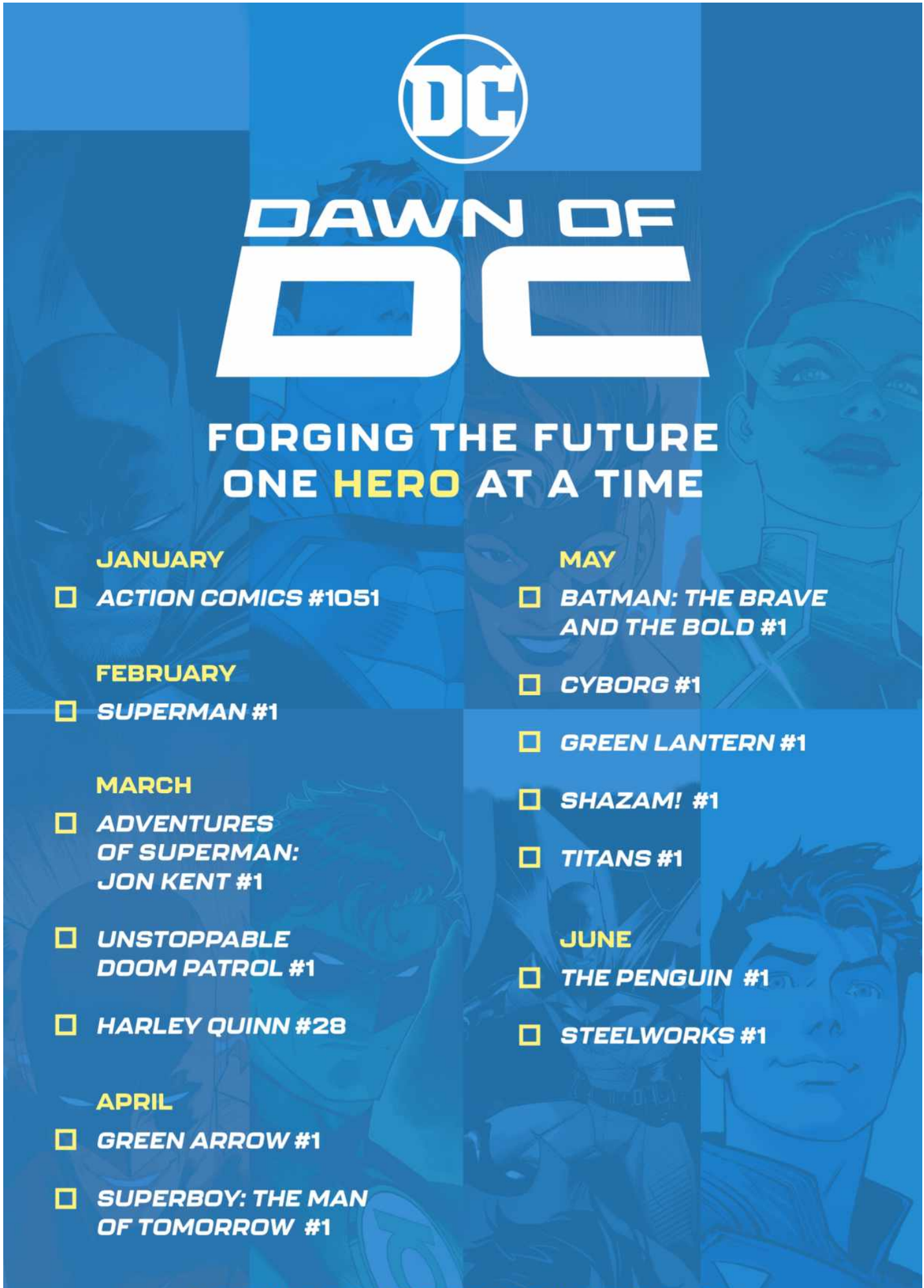
YEAH...
...THEY WERE **WAY** TOO BUSY TO STOP THE SUMMONER AND HIS MONSTER FROM PEACING OUT.

Guys...?
GUYS!
POP
IT WAS WEIRD. I COULDN'T SEE THEM, BUT I **TOTALLY** KNEW WHAT WAS GOING ON.

NOT THAT IT TOOK A GENIUS TO KNOW TANYA'D BE FREAKED OUT.
THAT KID'S SO **DECENT.** REALLY.
SHE GIVES HERSELF ALL THIS CRAP. **NOBODY** DESERVES THAT MUCH CRAP.

I MEAN, WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT-- THE WHOLE CREW'S KINDA ELITE.
EVEN MELVIN. YEAH, HE'S A PAIN, BUT... IT'S CUZ HE'S IN PAIN, YOU KNOW?
AND IT SUCKS ANYBODY HAS TO HURT LIKE THAT.
AND THE BOYS-- WE COULDN'T HAVE ASKED FOR BETTER GHOST TEACHERS, REALLY.
I JUST NEED TO REMEMBER. SOMETIMES EVERYTHING DOESN'T NEED TO BE INTENSE.
WAIT--
--WHAT'S--
--what's--
SOMETIMES YOU GOTTA TAKE A SECOND.
TO REMEMBER THE GOOD.
EVEN WHEN THINGS--
FSSSSH

CHAPTER TEN:
THE SECOND DEATH OF JAI SIRIKUL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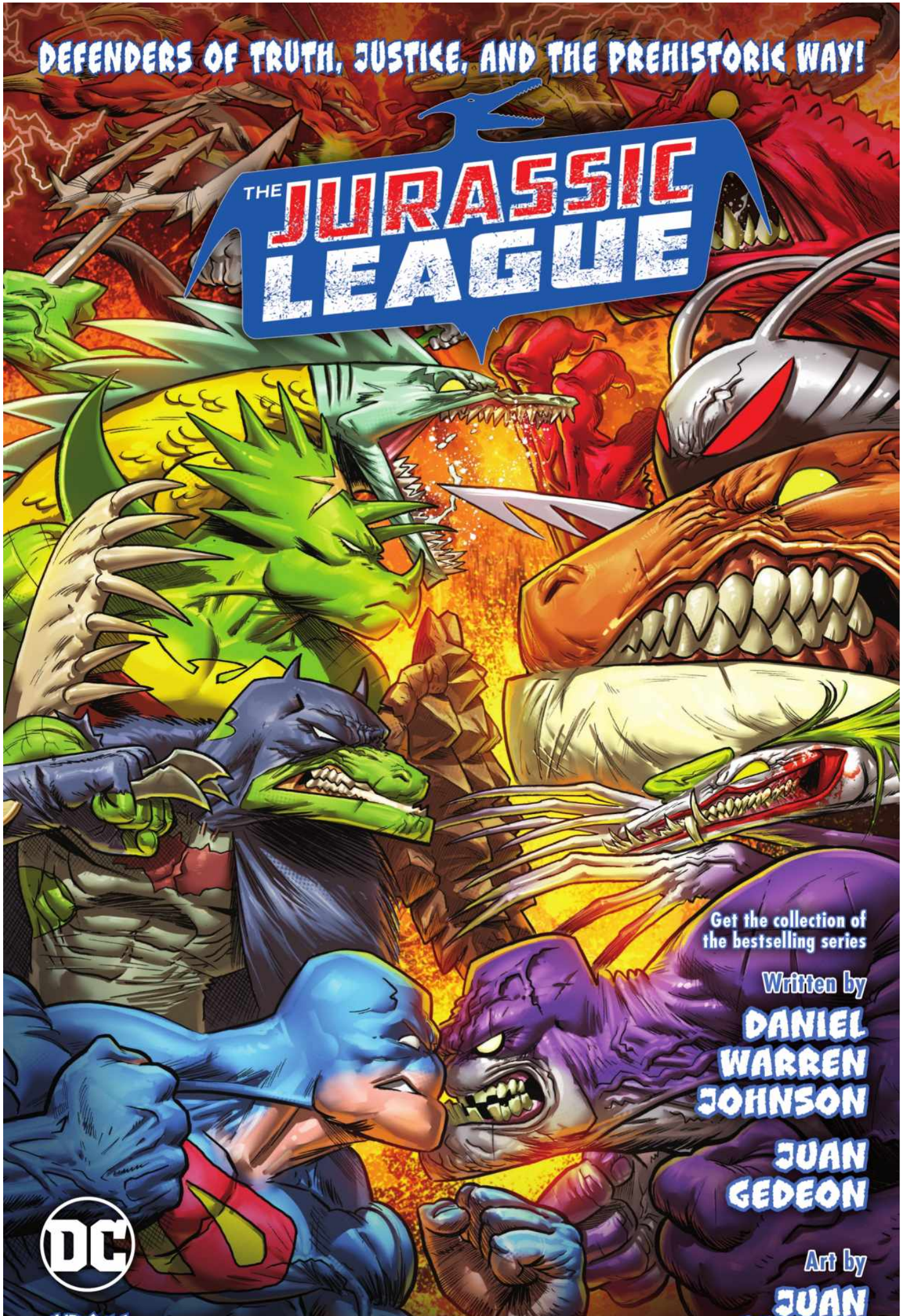
LOOK FOR MORE TITLES TO BE REVEALED THROUGHOUT 2023!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JUAN GEDEON
Art by
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What kind of ride will *Shazam! Fury of the Gods* take fans on?

It's a supersize version of the original *Shazam!*, which was incredibly entertaining. You see more of the Shazam family uniting together to fight the Daughters of Atlas. These goddesses are no joke. It was really fun being a part of something like this. I used to read the DC comic books, so being a part of that history is something really unique and special.

Your character, Kalypso, is one of the villainous Daughters of Atlas. What can fans expect from these goddesses?

The Daughters of Atlas are returning to Earth to get back their magic, which is basically their powers. The three sisters have different powers. Hespera is the eldest and has the power of elements. She can just point a finger and things will change, like the tides of the sea. Athena is the youngest and has the ability to change access. This means she can adjust buildings, blocks, and where everything is. It can disorient anyone who's coming her way. Kalypso has the power of chaos, meaning she can change people's chemistry to work against their morals.

What was it like suiting up to play Kalypso for the first time?

Let me say the costume I wore was very much made specifically to fit the character. [Costume designer Louise Mingenbach] did an incredible job of thinking about the metals the Daughters of Atlas had on their armor. Kalypso's costume had to be mobile because she's a goddess, but really, she's also a warrior.

For those who have never been on a set with Zachary Levi before, what's that like?

Well...Zach is a DJ, and when I say that, the man comes to set prepared with his music. It allows the set to be a very fun and active place. He even showed up on the last day of shooting after he had already wrapped his scenes a few days prior. He was just there to be supportive, and I think that's something exceptional. He's like a giant kid, so in some ways he's perfect for the role. At the same time, he's also very professional and warm. I was lucky to have a chance to work with him.

SHAZAM!
FURY OF THE GODS
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